

REMARKS

Claims 5-7, 9-11, 24-26, 28-30, 39 and 41 are presented for consideration, with Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification. In addition, the independent claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. In this regard, Applicant notes with appreciation that Claims 8, 12, 27 and 31 were indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Independent Claims 5, 9, 24 and 28 have been amended to include the features in the respective dependent claims. Additionally, Claims 39 and 41 have been amended in the same manner.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 20-22, 24-26 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Nishizawa '228 in view of Gecht '832. Claims 4 and 23 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over these citations and further in view of Nakamura '836. Claims 13-17 and 32-36 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Nakamura '464 and Nakamura '836. Finally, Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Nakamura '836.

Without conceding to the propriety of these rejections, Claims 1-4, 8, 12-23, 27, 31-38, 40, 42, 43 and 44 have been cancelled, and the remaining independent claims have been amended to include allowable subject matter. These rejections are therefore deemed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

Claims 37, 39, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 for allegedly containing non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding to the propriety of this rejection,

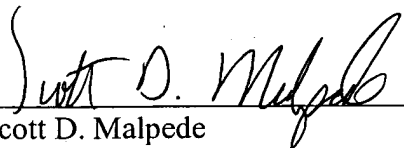
Claims 39 and 41 have been amended as suggested in paragraph 21 (pages 12 and 13) of the Office Action, and Claims 37 and 43 have been cancelled. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 5, 9, 24, 28, 39 and 41 is patentable over cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 25, 26, 29 and 30 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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